

## **ETOP update for April, 2006**

### **RED LOCUST:**

According to the International Red Locust Control Organization (IRLCO), significant populations of red locust persisted in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere, and South Rukwa plains as well as Malagarasi Basin and Bahi Valley in Tanzania in April. Aerial spraying controlled swarms using Fenitrothion in the Iku-Katavi. Hopper bands composed of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> instars were treated over 800 ha with Metarhizium (biological pesticide) in Wembere. Control operations against several small to medium-size swarms were also in progress in the Malagarasi Basin and low density hoppers were seen in the Bahi Valley which was partially flooded. Locust groups were observed at Likyonyowa Chipakwe and Namanja area during ground survey in the Lake Chilwa plains in Malawi. The situation in Buzi-Gorongosa plains in Mozambique, the Kafue Flats and Mweru wa Ntipa plains in Zambia remained relatively calm in April.

### **ARMYWORM**

Wide spread Armyworm outbreaks were reported in Kilifi, Kwale, Malindi, Taita-Taveta districts in Coast province; Machakos, Makueni, Kitui, Mwingi, Mbere, Marsabit, Tharaka, Meru North in Eastern Province; Suba, Migori districts in Nyanza Province and Kajiado district in Rift Valley Province of Kenya where maize, rice and pasture were reported attacked. Control was carried out by the affected farmers using Chlorpyrifos (Dursban), Cyanox and Fipronil (Adonis), with technical and material assistance from the MoA. Further detail was not available at the time this report was compiled.

### **RED BILLED QUELEA**

Quelea birds continued attacking small grain cereal crops in Dodoma region in Tanzania. Control operations were launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security in collaboration with the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA). Quelea outbreaks were not reported in the other IRLCO-CSA member-countries.

### **FORECAST TILL JULY**

Grass burning will begin in June in the Red Locust outbreak areas in the Iku-Katavi and Wembere plains, Malagarasi basin, and Bahi and Rukwa valleys in Tanzania and in the Lake Chilwa-Chiuta plains in Malawi and likely force adult locusts to concentrate and form swarms and dense populations. The situation in the other outbreak areas will likely remain relatively calm.

Armyworm outbreaks are likely to continue in Coast, Eastern, Rift Valley, Nyanza, and Western Provinces of Kenya and in Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Mara Regions of Tanzania, although the outbreak season will soon be coming to and end in the latter. The progressive northward movement of the ITCZ could create favourable climatic phenomena and lead to armyworm migrations and lead to outbreaks in the southern region and the Rift Valley areas of Ethiopia in the coming months.

Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to be a problem to small grain cereal growers in Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe and Ethiopia during the forecast period. Active surveillance and timely interventions are crucial.